



PAIGNTON COMMUNITY & SPORTS ACADEMY

Believe and Achieve

YEAR 8

ENGLISH

Year 8 launches with a Media unit of work. Students will analyse existing media texts and use their understanding of conventions and form to create their own texts on the subject of 'Bullying'. This will provide students with the experience of decoding unfamiliar texts and analysing language features, providing them with the skills that they will build on at Key Stage 4. The second half of the term will be spent immersed in a variety of novels which include: Stone Cold, Tulip Touch, Buddy, Holes, Witch Child, Animal Farm and Lord of the Flies. This will help the students to develop the skills linked with the assessment objectives of GCSE Literature. Students will continue with the Accelerated Reader programme, spending time in lesson and tutor time reading novels of their choice and are encouraged to read at home whenever possible. Regular homework will be set to develop students' skills and understanding. These can include Doodle homework, research projects or extended writing.



MATHS

Year 8 will revisit topics they have covered in Year 7, to both reinforce prior learning and to explore the mathematical concepts in greater depth. During the Autumn term they will study a variety of topics, such as calculating with decimals and negative numbers, manipulating units of measure to find area and perimeter of shapes, building a stronger understanding of simplifying algebraic expressions and interpreting graphs. There will continue to be a strong focus on presenting work in a neat and organised manner with clearly identifiable notes at key points. Teachers will informally assess the work covered in class for each topic and students will be given feedback to support their progress.

Students will have online access to the range of textbooks used and associated videos to support further learning. Having the correct equipment is an essential part of assessment preparation as well as revision. Whilst most of the focus in Year 8 is on developing non-calculator skills, it is a good idea to bring a suitable scientific calculator to every Maths lesson. Homework will be both paper based and online based and focused towards understanding and applying skills that have been learnt in class.

Homework will be logged on ClassCharts for parents to track and monitor. Occasionally, especially for revision purposes, additional work will be assigned using the Kerboodle and MyMaths websites. Students have their own login details for these websites which they should keep somewhere safe. If, for any reason, these are misplaced then any member of the Maths team will be able to help.



IMPORTANT DATES

2018
15-26th Oct Half Term
29th Oct Return from Half Term
21st Dec Last day of Autumn Term

2019
7th January First Day of Spring Term

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SCIENCE



Students will start the new scheme of work, *Activate combined science for AQA*; this course enables all students to prepare for Science GCSE in a more specific way. This will be the final year of the Key Stage 3 curriculum. Students will be taught a wide range of units covering all of the science disciplines. This term, students will be completing units on healthy lifestyles, the periodic table and pressure and contact forces. As in Year 7, a great emphasis will be on learning and using different practical techniques. Students will also spend time working on scientific literacy in preparation for the new style GCSE exams. Assessment will take place on a regular basis in the traditional form of end of unit exams and will include QWC (quality of written communication) questions which will prepare them for GCSE exams in the future.

Details of Activate science can be found at: <https://global.oup.com/education/content/secondary/series/>

GEOGRAPHY

Students will start the academic year studying 'water on the land', an exciting topic that studies how rivers and coasts shape our landscape. Students will identify features of rivers and coasts, the processes and how they need to be managed carefully. By 2025, over 3 billion people will live near the coastline which is subject to both erosion and flooding – students will evaluate current methods to try and manage this. They will critically evaluate the options of hard and soft engineering in the many choices of sea defences which are built at great expense to protect our coastlines with reference of real case study examples. One of the ways in which students will be assessed is through a mini decision making exercise to develop their extended writing and geographical skills.

HISTORY

We welcome back the Year 8 students with the following enquiry question: *Why did Henry leave the Catholic Church?* Students will work independently to investigate the young life of Henry VIII and consider the impact of his famous jousting accident. They will analyse and respond to the work of leading Tudor historians. The assessment focus will be extended writing and students will learn how to redraft work to improve their performance. This will help to prepare them for their future GCSE studies.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Year 8 will begin programming using the universally known language of 'Python'. Students taking Computer Science will use this programming language throughout their time at the Academy; this is widely used in businesses and industry, providing students with the skill set needed for employment.

Students will learn about variables, inputs/ outputs, IF/ELSE statement and loops.

Students will answer challenges focusing on these skills and begin to problem solve using flow diagrams and pseudocode to really create these logical thinking skills that are used in the world of computer programming.

Following this, students will look at theoretical aspects of Computer Science, looking at key hardware components like the CPU, RAM, ROM and the graphics card, and how computers store information, looking at binary as a representation of data.

FRENCH

In Year 8 we continue working from Studio 1 on the topics of hobbies and sport. The department has electronic resources to support students. We will also be using Linguascope, an online package which has many interactive resources to make learning fun.

French - How parents can help

We would love you to support your child with their home learning by regularly helping them to learn vocabulary in preparation for their vocabulary tests. Allow them to explore fun ways of learning from home, e.g. sticking post-its on the fridge, get them to teach you, rap it, sing it, dance along to it, record it ("pod-casting" as it's now referred to), watch it on "Paignton Online" and use the "look, cover, say, write, check" method. Only by experimenting will they discover which method works best for them.

They will be issued with vocabulary lists and any other homework will be either on worksheets, in their yellow book or on Linguascope. Thank you for supporting us with your child's learning. Merci et Bon Courage!

FOOD

Throughout this term students will be given the opportunity to explore a wide range of ingredients, food and practical skills as well as being introduced to a range of practical skills, methods of cooking, healthy eating, food provenance and the function of ingredients.

Students will learn how to apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating and will be introduced to the 'Eatwell' guide, food and its nutritional value and health and safety in preparing and making food.

Students will learn the importance of hygiene and the potential hazards when working in the technical area by preparing and cooking a variety of dishes incorporating theoretical understanding and knowledge:

Students will learn how to design and make a fresh fruit salad, pasta salad as well as experiment making different flavoured scones and fruit cobbler.



MULTIMEDIA PRODUCT DESIGN

Multimedia Product Design is about designing and making functional outcomes. The course provides opportunities for students to explore a range of materials and construction techniques and to develop their design skills in two and three dimension. Students apply their knowledge and skills creatively in response to the set design brief. The project brief is to design and make a piece of merchandise that supports a new interactive computer game; the theme combines research into graffiti, emojis and Pokemon. Homework is set weekly to support development of the project and to expand knowledge of the subject area. All work is assessed against the assessment criteria for BTEC Product Design and provides a solid foundation for students to continue with the subject in Year 9.

PSHE

September 2018 will be the first time that all PCSA students from Year 7 to 11 will take part in one Personal Social Health Education lesson a week. For Year 8 this will cover areas such as citizenship, relationship and sex education, healthy lifestyles, life skills, careers and financial studies. The first half of the Autumn term begins with a Citizenship. Students will explore areas such as leadership, crime and punishment, needs and wants and valuable roles in society through an imaginary situation of being stranded on a deserted island after a ship wreck. Many of the tasks involve group and pair work and decision making, alongside being able to justify decisions made.

The second half of the Autumn term will be looking at healthy lifestyles. This will include lessons on the dangers of smoking and alcohol, personal hygiene, healthy eating, legal ages and body image. Students will take part in discussions and activities to raise their personal awareness of the importance of staying safe and healthy. This will include making students aware of where they can get help within PCSA for all sorts of issues that may crop up both in and out of school.

ETHICS

Students will be continuing their study of Ethics. They will start the year by exploring issues of Human Rights and examining how the United Nations promotes this. This will be accompanied by the film 'Osama' about a young girl in Afghanistan and some of the issues she faced. There will be one assessment each half term which will be designed to give students the experience and strategies needed for GCSE study in the future. This will allow good mapping of student progress and individual target setting to make sure all reach their potential in Ethics.



PE

Welcome! All the PE staff hope you are excited and ready for the start of a new academic year. At KS3 we offer twelve different activities throughout the year, with additional activities available during lunchtimes and after school.

Parents – Please encourage your son/daughter to attend our sports clubs and look out for the clubs list that will appear on the website soon!

Students - Please ensure you have all the correct kit for your lessons:

- Academy blue PE shirt
- Academy blue rugby top
- Academy black shorts
- Academy blue socks
- Suitable footwear: Studded boots for rugby/football. Supportive trainers (NO pumps).
- Gum shield and shin pads for football, rugby and hockey.

No hoodies or uniform will be allowed in PE lessons but in very cold weather it is advisable to wear extra layers: under-armor or alternatives are great worn under the Academy polo shirt or rugby top. If students have PE lessons in the morning, we strongly advise that they have a good breakfast.

Finally, we are delighted to announce a new partnership with Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club next year. A qualified coach will be working with our students within curriculum time and supporting our extra-curricular rugby clubs!

The table below shows the sports that students will be covering in the Autumn term:

GIRLS	BOYS
Gymnastics	Gymnastics
Football	Rugby
Multi Skills	Multi Skills
Netball	Health Related Fitness

CAREERS

When exploring opportunities it is important to keep an open mind at first. You can decide whether your ideas are realistic opportunities at a later stage in the career planning process. Keeping an open mind may uncover a job you've never considered or even heard of before. There are two main ways to research future careers:

Desk Research

- Use the careers hub to discover more about the various options available to you. <http://careers.paigntonacademy.org/>

Active Research

- Speak to friends & family about their work.
- Ask for 'information interviews' with people doing jobs that you are interested in.
- Attend careers events.
- Book a careers appointment.

During this term students will:

- be invited to attend a lunchtime drop in.
- receive a Careers Hub remind assembly.
- have the opportunity to join the 'Kidzania' trip.

ENGINEERING

Our Year 8 students have the opportunity to make a light that can be controlled by computer or mobile phone charger. Parents and students can see the project and tasks by visiting www.pcsaengineers.uk.

The students will use a range of tools and equipment including Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM). They will also construct an electric circuit to develop soldering skills.



ART

Year 8 students will be exploring the theme 'Come Fly with Me' and instigating the idea of hybrid. Students will be researching artists such as Anthony Gormely, developing observational drawings, experimenting with materials and techniques and then making a 3D clay outcome that relates to the theme. Students will have the opportunity to work in both 2D and 3D materials. The projects will focus on the formal elements of shape and form which will enable students to understand how to embed fundamental skills and techniques.

During the projects students will develop ideas, drawings, research and experiments which will be self-evaluated, peer assessed and marked by the class teacher. Targets are regularly set and reviewed to help students to progress. KS3 Art Club runs on Monday lunchtimes where students will have the opportunity to complete any unfinished work and enter competitions. Homework consists of research, collating information and drawings. It would be beneficial for students to have basic art equipment at home to help complete homework and encourage independent learning.

DRAMA

Students will be studying : Shakespeare & Macbeth.

Core skills include developing theatrical skills using physicality and the voice alongside characterisation, working with text and beginning to analyse and evaluate the work of others.

Students will have the opportunity to take part in a theatre trip to watch a professional production of Macbeth to enrich their learning throughout this topic. They will begin to study the work of theatre makers as part of the unit of study.

Written work is an integral part of the drama course and students will be expected to keep a drama log book of the work they undertake including live theatre performances.

Students will receive a 1-hour lesson a fortnight throughout the year and homework is set on alternate weeks.

A Drama Club for all year groups will be taking place once a week in the drama studio at Waterleat Road.

Girls are required to bring a pair of plain black leggings to their lesson each week. Skirts will not be allowed.

MUSIC

Students in Music this term will study 'Folk Music' exploring a range of instrumentation and developing their performance skills further. Homework is set three times each half term to reinforce the learning within class and will be a mixture of research tasks and quizzes set on Doodle. Students need to bring their own headphones for practical tasks.

Instrumental lessons are offered by our excellent team of visiting teachers and students can sign up by collecting a letter from the Music department.

Our Christmas concert will take place on the 20th December at Paignton Parish Church and auditions for Year 8 performances will take place in W44.

Don't forget to encourage your child to attend one of the music clubs offered at lunchtime and after school.

Extra-Curricular:

Tuesday lunchtime – Rock School

Wednesday lunchtime – Choir

Wednesday after school (3.15 – 4.30) - Band

Thursday lunchtime – Karaoke Club

Practice rooms are available to book on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes.

